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Note verbale dated 20 January 2016 from the Permanent Mission of Paraguay to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Paraguay to the United Nations has the honour to inform the Secretary-General that the Government of Paraguay would like to become a member of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Over the years, the Republic of Paraguay has demonstrated its commitment to the ideals that led to the establishment of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); has ratified the principal conventions on refugees (the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto) and stateless persons (the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness); and is a party to the core universal international instruments on human rights and international humanitarian law.

The domestic legal framework concerning refugees is laid down in the Refugee Act (No. 1938), adopted in 2002, which established the National Refugee Commission, consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Justice, the Commissions on Human Rights of both chambers of the National Congress, civil-society organizations and UNHCR.

Paraguay currently hosts some 130 refugees, who come from countries in Latin America, Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe.

Based on the foregoing, the Permanent Mission of Paraguay hereby requests the good offices of the Secretary-General in connection with the application of Paraguay for admission as a member of the Executive Committee of the Programme of UNHCR.

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